

components also have some degree of skin conditioning properties, and provide protection against the adverse affects of frigid weather. Examples of preferred freezing point depressant components include polyols, and mixtures thereof. Preferred polyols include propylene glycol; glycerin; sorbitol; and homologs, homopolymers and derivatives thereof and mixtures thereof. In an embodiment, the freezing point depressant component is a mixture of propylene glycol and glycerin. Preferably, the freezing point depressant component of the carrier medium make up greater than 60%, in some embodiments, greater than 65%, in some other embodiments, greater than 70%, and in yet other embodiments, greater than 75% by weight of the total composition. --

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Please replace the paragraph starting at page 13, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Fatty acids suitable for a composition of the present invention include C₆-C₁₂ fatty acids. Preferred fatty acids have a chain length from about C₇-C₉. One particularly preferred fatty acid is heptanoic acid that has seven carbon atoms, including the carboxyl group, and has a pKa of 4.4. In addition to its preferred water solubility, heptanoic acid is not significantly irritating to the tissues. In an embodiment, the antimicrobial component consists essentially of heptanoic acid.--

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In the Claims

Please cancel claims 2, 3, 5, 17, 24, 25, and 27 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 6, 19, and 28 as follows

1. (Twice Amended) An antimicrobial composition comprising:
in the range of 0.01 to 5 wt. % of an antimicrobial component consisting essentially of heptanoic acid; and
greater than 60 wt. % of a freezing point depressant component comprising propylene glycol and glycerin.

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